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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PHYLLIS C. MOUTON, SECRETARY

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

FEBRUARY, 1988

RELEASE DATE:
March 25, 1988

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 1988				REVISED JANUARY 1988				REVISED FEBRUARY 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,900.8	1,670.5	230.3	12.1	1,905.8	1,672.6	233.2	12.2	1,960.8	1,679.7	281.1	14.3
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	60.2	53.5	6.7	11.1	60.3	53.8	6.5	10.7	60.8	53.6	7.2	11.8
Baton Rouge 2/	260.7	234.4	26.3	10.1	261.6	234.8	26.8	10.2	263.8	233.4	30.4	11.5
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	69.7	60.0	9.7	13.9	69.6	59.8	9.8	14.1	75.1	59.2	15.9	21.1
Lafayette 4/	97.6	86.5	11.1	11.4	97.3	85.9	11.4	11.7	102.9	86.7	16.2	15.7
Lake Charles 5/	75.4	65.0	10.4	13.8	75.3	65.2	10.1	13.5	75.6	64.8	10.8	14.3
Monroe 6/	67.8	59.9	7.9	11.7	67.0	59.0	8.0	11.9	70.6	62.4	8.2	11.6
New Orleans 7/	586.4	528.3	58.1	9.9	588.2	529.2	59.0	10.0	603.8	535.6	68.2	11.3
Shreveport 8/	164.9	145.6	19.3	11.7	166.3	146.5	19.8	11.9	168.6	146.1	22.5	13.3

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during February amounted to 1,490,600, an increase of 4,500 above the previous month and 31,200 above the comparable period a year ago. The state's manufacturing payrolls were up as a result of increases in both the durable and nondurable goods segments. Louisiana's nonmanufacturing employment drop was centered in services and government.

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Estimated employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing increased by 400 workers from January's revised level. Increased production in several segments of the machinery, except electrical industry was responsible for the increase in employment for this industry. Employment for the state's transportation equipment industry grew due to an increase in activity at the state's shipyards.

Nondurable goods employment was estimated at 93,300 for February, an increase of 100 from the January revised level of 93,200. Seasonal decreases in the food and kindred products industry was centered in the seafood canning sector. Paper and allied products employment rose in February, due mainly to an increase in paperboard mills employment. Apparel and other textile products and chemicals and allied products employment edged upward. Payrolls for the other nondurable goods sector fell by 100 in February.

Nonmanufacturing employment in February, at 1,324,600, was up by 4,000 over January's revised level of 1,320,600 and 23,800 higher than February of last year. Decreased activity in the production of crude petroleum and natural gas was responsible for the lower level of employment in mining. A downturn in construction payrolls occurred largely due to decreased activity in certain sectors of the special trade contractors segment. Transportation and public utilities employment decreased mainly due to less business for trucking and warehousing firms. Trade employment decreased in February partly due to less business for general merchandise, apparel and accessories stores, and certain miscellaneous retail trade establishments. Contributing to the downturn in finance, insurance and real estate were payroll reductions in the banking industry. Increases in educational services were significant in the higher level of employment in services for February. Estimated government employment was up, due in large part to increases in state and local education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's production workers in manufacturing decreased from $460.22 in January to $455.94 in February, a decrease of $4.28, but an increase of $0.16 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were five cents lower in February than last month, and $0.10 lower than the year-ago figure. Weekly hours averaged 42.1 for the current month, down 0.2 hours from January's figure.

Estimated total unemployment for Louisiana during February amounted to 230,300, a decrease of 2,900 below January's revised level of 233,200. The unemployment rate for February was 12.1 percent compared to 12.2 percent for the prior month and 14.3 percent for February 1987. The comparable national unemployment rate for February was 6.2 percent compared to 6.3 percent in January and 7.2 percent for February of last year. The state's civilian labor force decreased from 1,905,800 in January to 1,900,800 in February, a loss of 5,000. Total employment, estimated at 1,670,500 for the current month, was down by 2,100 below last month's revised figure and was 9,200 below February of last year.

The state's unemployment rate is expected to decrease slightly in the next month. Employment may show some growth in both the nonmanufacturing and manufacturing segments.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change from Jan. 1988	Net Change from Feb. 1987
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	84.6	84.7	83.8	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Banking	24.9	25.1	25.5	- 0.2	- 0.6
SERVICES	326.7	323.8	312.2	+ 2.9	+14.5
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.6	22.0	21.0	+ 0.6	+ 1.6
Personal Services	14.3	14.3	14.2	0	+ 0.1
Business Services	57.2	56.8	54.7	+ 0.4	+ 2.5
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.4	9.4	9.5	0	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Repair Services	5.5	5.4	5.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.7	8.7	7.6	0	+ 1.1
Health Services	102.9	102.7	98.5	+ 0.2	+ 4.4
Legal Services	15.4	15.3	14.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Educational Services	25.7	24.3	22.4	+ 1.4	+ 3.3
Social Services	18.9	18.8	18.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Membership Organizations	25.3	25.4	25.3	- 0.1	0
Miscellaneous Services	15.0	14.8	15.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	313.5	311.0	315.9	+ 2.5	- 2.4
Federal	36.2	36.0	35.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
State and Local	277.3	275.0	280.3	+ 2.3	- 3.0
State	97.2	95.4	98.2	+ 1.8	- 1.0
Local	180.1	179.6	182.1	+ 0.5	- 2.0

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the exception of the Lake Charles LMA which is prepared under the auspices of the Louisiana Department of Labor, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change from Jan. 1988	Net Change from Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,490.6	1,486.1	1,459.4	+ 4.5	+31.2
MINING	54.6	54.8	53.1	- 0.2	+ 1.5
Oil and Gas Extraction	51.9	52.1	50.4	- 0.2	+ 1.5
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	76.8	77.3	77.3	- 0.5	- 0.5
MANUFACTURING	166.0	165.5	158.6	+ 0.5	+ 7.4
Durable Goods	72.7	72.3	67.7	+ 0.4	+ 5.0
Lumber and Wood Products	11.9	11.9	12.1	0	- 0.2
Furniture and Fixtures	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.3	5.3	5.3	0	0
Primary Metal Industries	2.9	2.9	2.7	0	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	11.0	11.0	10.9	0	+ 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	8.9	8.7	7.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.1	7.2	7.5	- 0.1	- 0.4
Transportation Equipment	22.4	22.1	18.7	+ 0.3	+ 3.7
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.5	2.5	2.2	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	93.3	93.2	90.9	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Food & Kindred Products	19.0	19.2	18.9	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.5	9.4	8.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Paper & Allied Products	12.0	11.8	11.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Printing & Publishing	10.2	10.2	9.8	0	+ 0.4
Chemicals & Allied Products	25.5	25.4	25.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.3	12.3	12.2	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.4	11.1	0	+ 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.8	4.9	4.8	- 0.1	0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	104.0	104.2	103.1	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Railroad Transportation	5.2	5.2	5.4	0	- 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	58.6	58.9	57.4	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Water Transportation	23.0	22.9	22.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	40.2	40.1	40.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.0	17.9	18.5	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	22.2	22.2	21.8	0	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	364.4	364.8	355.4	- 0.4	+ 9.0
Wholesale Trade	82.4	82.1	80.0	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	45.7	45.6	44.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	36.7	36.5	35.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Retail Trade	282.0	282.7	275.4	- 0.7	+ 6.6
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	58.9	59.3	56.7	- 0.4	+ 2.2
Food Stores	56.4	56.6	55.0	- 0.2	+ 1.4
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	30.4	30.5	29.4	- 0.1	+ 1.0
Eating & Drinking Places	85.2	84.6	83.8	+ 0.6	+ 1.4
Other Retail Trade	51.1	51.7	50.5	- 0.6	+ 0.6

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change from Jan. 1988	Net Change from Feb. 1987
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	84.6	84.7	83.8	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Banking	24.9	25.1	25.5	- 0.2	- 0.6
SERVICES	326.7	323.8	312.2	+ 2.9	+14.5
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.6	22.0	21.0	+ 0.6	+ 1.6
Personal Services	14.3	14.3	14.2	0	+ 0.1
Business Services	57.2	56.8	54.7	+ 0.4	+ 2.5
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.4	9.4	9.5	0	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Repair Services	5.5	5.4	5.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.7	8.7	7.6	0	+ 1.1
Health Services	102.9	102.7	98.5	+ 0.2	+ 4.4
Legal Services	15.4	15.3	14.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Educational Services	25.7	24.3	22.4	+ 1.4	+ 3.3
Social Services	18.9	18.8	18.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Membership Organizations	25.3	25.4	25.3	- 0.1	0
Miscellaneous Services	15.0	14.8	15.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	313.5	311.0	315.9	+ 2.5	- 2.4
Federal	36.2	36.0	35.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
State and Local	277.3	275.0	280.3	+ 2.3	- 3.0
State	97.2	95.4	98.2	+ 1.8	- 1.0
Local	180.1	179.6	182.1	+ 0.5	- 2.0

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

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LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 02 88				REVISED 01 88			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	22,575	19,125	3,450	15.3	22,475	19,025	3,450	15.4
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,550	8,175	1,375	14.4	9,600	8,225	1,375	14.3
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	5,950	4,100	1,850	30.9	6,150	4,150	2,000	32.4
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	15,200	12,025	3,175	21.0	15,275	12,050	3,225	21.1
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	14,650	12,900	1,750	12.0	14,450	12,675	1,775	12.3
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,325	5,475	850	13.3	6,400	5,550	850	13.3
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,250	3,550	700	16.4	4,225	3,525	700	16.4
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,300	3,725	575	13.3	4,350	3,775	575	13.4
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,350	3,200	1,150	26.3	4,275	3,175	1,100	25.6
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,825	7,025	800	10.2	7,950	7,050	900	11.2
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	9,950	7,900	2,050	20.5	9,925	7,950	1,975	19.9
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	12,650	11,025	1,625	12.8	12,625	11,000	1,625	12.9
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,325	3,200	1,125	25.8	4,275	3,175	1,100	25.9
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,250	7,250	1,000	12.2	8,350	7,300	1,050	12.6
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	12,525	10,650	1,875	15.0	12,575	10,700	1,875	14.9
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,075	6,550	1,525	18.8	8,175	6,575	1,600	19.6
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,875	5,750	1,125	16.3	6,750	5,725	1,025	15.2
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	24,625	20,525	4,100	16.6	24,925	20,575	4,350	17.5
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,425	9,400	2,025	17.8	11,475	9,375	2,100	18.3
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,400	6,575	825	11.1	7,400	6,625	775	10.4
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,400	10,325	2,075	16.6	12,350	10,350	2,000	16.2
JENA (LASALLE)	6,375	5,625	750	11.8	6,400	5,650	750	11.8
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	17,625	16,550	1,075	6.1	17,575	16,475	1,100	6.3
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,950	4,700	1,250	21.0	5,950	4,675	1,275	21.3
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,275	9,975	2,300	18.8	12,300	10,000	2,300	18.7
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,175	14,325	1,850	11.5	16,375	14,425	1,950	12.0
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	9,050	7,825	1,225	13.5	9,100	7,875	1,225	13.6
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	7,300	5,825	1,475	20.1	7,300	5,800	1,500	20.4
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,175	3,575	600	14.2	4,175	3,550	625	14.8
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,925	7,325	1,600	17.9	8,925	7,325	1,600	18.0
MANY (SABINE)	9,700	8,725	975	10.2	9,850	8,825	1,025	10.3
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,600	2,200	400	15.5	2,600	2,200	400	15.2
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,300	6,800	1,500	18.2	8,325	6,750	1,575	19.0
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	32,950	27,075	5,875	17.8	33,150	27,250	5,900	17.8
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	23,225	18,725	4,500	19.4	23,500	18,750	4,750	20.2
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	38,100	32,650	5,450	14.3	38,250	32,850	5,400	14.1
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,200	2,625	575	18.1	3,250	2,600	650	19.7
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,150	6,975	1,175	14.5	8,225	6,975	1,250	15.3
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	19,625	16,125	3,500	17.8	19,750	16,250	3,500	17.8
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	19,325	17,275	2,050	10.6	19,225	17,375	1,850	9.6
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	17,900	15,675	2,225	12.5	18,000	15,775	2,225	12.4
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,075	16,150	2,925	15.3	19,400	16,300	3,100	16.0
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,850	3,425	1,425	29.4	4,775	3,425	1,350	28.2
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,150	3,675	475	11.4	4,150	3,675	475	11.3
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,625	5,025	600	10.5	5,675	5,075	600	10.5

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$455.94	$460.22	$455.78	42.1	42.3	41.7	$10.83	$10.88	$10.93
Durable Goods	413.42	416.22	416.17	42.1	42.0	41.7	9.82	9.91	9.98
Lumber & Wood Products	363.54	357.47	346.77	43.8	43.7	43.4	8.30	8.18	7.99
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	365.49	367.28	360.19	40.7	41.5	40.2	8.98	8.85	8.96
Fabricated Metal Products	442.71	431.30	418.84	44.9	44.1	41.8	9.86	9.78	10.02
Machinery, ex. Electrical	392.04	397.38	384.52	42.2	43.1	43.4	9.29	9.22	8.86
Electric & Electronic Equip.	515.29	560.12	594.43	40.1	41.8	43.2	12.85	13.40	13.76
Transportation Equipment	429.39	431.72	438.60	40.7	39.9	39.8	10.55	10.82	11.02
Nondurable Goods	490.98	497.25	487.97	42.0	42.5	41.6	11.69	11.70	11.73
Food & Kindred Products	291.06	295.62	293.37	37.8	39.0	38.1	7.70	7.58	7.70
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	205.47	210.43	196.31	37.7	38.4	36.9	5.45	5.48	5.32
Paper & Allied Products	564.99	561.47	558.99	42.9	42.6	42.9	13.17	13.18	13.03
Printing & Publishing	392.58	392.45	385.44	38.2	38.4	37.9	10.25	10.22	10.17
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	702.27	705.32	681.30	45.9	45.8	44.5	15.30	15.40	15.31
Petroleum & Coal Products	701.78	737.66	705.15	46.2	47.9	46.3	15.19	15.40	15.23
Petroleum Refining	711.32	752.77	723.84	46.1	48.1	46.4	15.43	15.65	15.66
MINING	514.35	552.89	528.96	45.0	46.5	44.6	11.43	11.89	11.86
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	503.83	514.16	483.21	39.3	40.2	40.1	12.82	12.79	12.05
BANKING	264.00	259.75	256.30	37.5	37.7	38.6	7.04	6.89	6.64

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 121,800 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 89,100 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	212.7	212.0	208.1	+ 0.7	+ 4.6
MANUFACTURING	18.7	18.6	18.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Durable Goods	4.0	3.9	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.6	1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	14.7	14.7	14.4	0	+ 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.2	10.2	10.1	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	19.8	19.9	18.6	- 0.1	+ 1.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.4	10.3	10.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	50.5	50.8	49.6	- 0.3	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade	11.5	11.4	10.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.8	7.7	7.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.7	3.7	3.2	0	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	39.0	39.4	39.0	- 0.4	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.4	13.4	13.2	0	+ 0.2
Banking	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	43.7	43.4	41.9	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
GOVERNMENT	55.4	54.8	55.5	+ 0.6	- 0.1
Federal	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	53.1	52.5	53.3	+ 0.6	- 0.2
State	30.6	30.1	31.3	+ 0.5	- 0.7
Local	22.5	22.4	22.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$538.75	$545.54	$498.54	43.1	43.4	42.0	$12.50	$12.57	$11.87
Petro-Chemicals	712.62	722.38	641.68	47.1	47.4	45.9	15.13	15.24	13.98

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.3	45.6	44.3	- 0.3	+ 1.0
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.8	11.0	10.6	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Retail Trade	8.6	8.8	8.4	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.0	2.1	2.0	- 0.1	0
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.2	2.3	2.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.5	3.3	0	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	11.1	11.2	10.7	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Health Services	4.9	5.0	4.6	- 0.1	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	12.7	12.7	12.5	0	+ 0.2
Federal	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.0	10.0	9.9	0	+ 0.1
State	4.7	4.8	4.7	- 0.1	0
Local	5.3	5.2	5.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area was estimated at 45,300 for the month of February. This estimate was 300 less than January and 1,000 more than February of last year.

Employment in manufacturing was estimated at 3,500 during February. This estimate was unchanged since January and 100 more than February of last year. The change occurred in other nondurable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 41,800 during February. This estimate was 300 less than the previous month and 900 more than last February. Since last month declines occurred in retail trade, services and state government. The only increase was in local government. Since last February, employment in nonmanufacturing has increased by 900. Industries showing gains include all major segments except mining, construction, and finance, insurance and real estate.

During the next thirty days, employment should increase slightly with a corresponding decline in the number of unemployed.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA, at 212,700 during February, was up 700 from the revised January estimate and up 4,600 over the comparable period a year ago.

Employment in manufacturing, at 18,700 was up 100 during the current period and up 600 over the year ago estimate. Durable goods rose due to more business in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling and finishing mills, in iron and steel foundries, and in motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment. Nondurable goods production was unchanged during the current period.

Total nonmanufacturing was up 600 during February. Construction was down due to less business in miscellaneous special trade contractors. Transportation and public utilities employment was up due to more business in services incidental to water transportation. Wholesale trade was up due to more business in lumber and other construction materials, and in machinery, equipment, and supplies. Retail trade was down due to seasonal reductions in department stores and less business in radio, television, and music stores. Services employment increased due to more business in personnel supply services, automobile repair shops, and hospitals. Government was up during the current period due mainly to a seasonal increase in state education and staff increases in local government employment.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge LMA's 12,000 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $538.75, down $6.79 from the revised January average. Average weekly hours, at 43.1, were down 0.3 hours, and average hourly earnings were down seven cents per hour. Less overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 3,880 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 1,240 applicants in jobs during February.

The consumer price index for January, 1988 for all urban consumers was 115.7 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 114.5 using base period 1982, 1983, 1984 = 100.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents totaled 234,400 during February, down 400 from the revised January estimate. Unemployment, at 26,300, was down 500 during the current period. The unemployment rate was 10.1 percent, compared to 10.2 percent for January and 11.5 percent for February of last year. Baton Rouge's civilian labor force totaled 260,700 during the current period.

Good weather and seasonal increases are expected to improve employment in construction and retail trade during the coming month. Unemployment is expected to decline due to these employment increases.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	52.1	51.9	50.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
MANUFACTURING	4.1	4.1	3.6	0	+ 0.5
Durable Goods	2.9	2.8	2.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.3	1.5	- 0.1	- 0.3
MINING	5.8	5.7	5.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.7	5.8	5.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Water Transportation	3.5	3.5	3.2	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.3	13.4	12.8	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.8	2.7	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	10.6	10.6	10.1	0	+ 0.5
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.2	2.8	0	+ 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
SERVICES	8.8	8.6	8.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.5	10.8	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	10.2	10.1	10.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1
State	2.9	2.7	3.0	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Local	7.3	7.4	7.3	- 0.1	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux labor market area in February pushed up to 52,100, a level 200 above January. Services showed the largest gain of any industry division.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,100 in February, the same level as the previous month. The durable goods segment increased 100 due to more business. The nondurable goods segment decreased 100 due to seasonal decreases in the seafood industry.

Mining edged up slightly despite winter weather conditions. Construction held steady in the worst season of the year for outside activity. Transportation and public utilities showed a small overall decrease. Wholesale trade tapered off in the durable goods segment. Retail trade remained at the same level. Finance, insurance and real estate showed no significant change. Services exhibited a gain spread through many segments. State government was boosted by a seasonal increase in educational services.

Estimated unemployment in February was 9,700, down 100 from January. Unemployment presently comprises 13.9 percent of the labor force compared to 14.1 percent in January and 21.1 percent in February, 1987. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 1,702.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show a normal seasonal increase. Mining and construction will take advantage of better weather conditions for outside work. Much will depend on developments in the oil and gas industry. Transportation will probably show a small gain. Unemployment is expected to show some decreases as employment increases.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	82.6	81.5	80.7	+ 1.1	+ 1.9
MANUFACTURING	5.9	5.9	5.7	0	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
MINING	10.5	10.5	10.2	0	+ 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	3.0	3.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.6	5.6	5.7	0	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	22.5	22.3	22.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Retail Trade	17.4	17.2	17.4	+ 0.2	0
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	- 0.1
Food Stores	2.9	2.8	3.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.7	1.7	1.5	0	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	10.0	9.9	10.0	+ 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.7	3.8	4.0	- 0.1	- 0.3
Banking	1.1	1.2	1.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
SERVICES	18.4	18.2	16.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.9
GOVERNMENT	13.1	12.2	13.2	+ 0.9	- 0.1
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	12.2	11.3	12.3	+ 0.9	- 0.1
State	5.2	4.3	5.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.1
Local	7.0	7.0	7.2	0	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette LMA was estimated at 82,600 for February, an increase of 1,100 from January's figure and 1,900 above the February 1987 level.

Nonmanufacturing showed an increase of 1,100 over January's figure and was also 1,700 above the February 1987 revised figure. Government rose by 900 due to students being hired for the spring semester.

Wholesale and retail trade showed an increase of 200 in the food stores and other retail trade sectors of the economy. Overall, wholesale and retail trade was up by 100 from the comparable period a year ago. Services rose in February by 200 due to increases in health services and business services. All other segments showed little or no change from the previous month.

The unemployment rate should remain close to the current level for the next thirty days.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.1	58.1	56.6	0	+ 1.5
MANUFACTURING	11.0	11.0	9.7	0	+ 1.3
Durable Goods	2.6	2.5	1.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.4	2.3	1.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.5	8.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.2	0.3	0.2	- 0.1	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.6	7.6	7.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	3.9	3.7	4.7	+ 0.2	- 0.8
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	3.9	4.0	3.7	- 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.5	14.5	13.7	0	+ 0.8
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.8	2.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Retail Trade	11.6	11.7	11.1	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.9	4.0	3.5	- 0.1	+ 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	11.1	11.2	10.8	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Personal Services	0.4	0.5	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	10.0	10.0	10.3	0	- 0.3
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.4	9.4	9.7	0	- 0.3
State	3.5	3.5	3.3	0	+ 0.2
Local	5.9	5.9	6.4	0	- 0.5

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the Lake Charles LMA for February 1988 was estimated at 58,100, showing no change from the previous month, but is 1,500 above the figure for February 1987.

Construction showed a growth of 200 for February, but is 800 below last year's revised estimate. The services sector fell by 100 from the previous month, but is 300 above the level of a year ago.

For the next 30 days, employment as well as the unemployment rate should remain stable.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	509.2	508.4	505.3	+ 0.8	+ 3.9
MANUFACTURING	43.2	42.9	41.2	+ 0.3	+ 2.0
Durable Goods	22.0	21.5	19.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.2	1.2	1.4	0	- 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Machinery	2.7	2.7	2.4	0	+ 0.3
Transportation Equipment	13.4	12.9	11.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.6
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	9.7	9.2	8.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.6
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.7	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	21.2	21.4	21.3	- 0.2	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	5.9	6.1	6.4	- 0.2	- 0.5
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Paper & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	+ 0.2
Chemicals and Allied Products	3.9	3.9	3.8	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.6	4.6	4.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	14.7	14.6	14.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	13.8	13.7	13.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	21.5	21.6	22.1	- 0.1	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	43.4	43.5	42.9	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Railroad Transportation	1.4	1.5	1.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Water Transportation	12.8	12.6	12.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	133.3	133.9	133.5	- 0.6	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	31.8	31.8	31.5	0	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.1	18.1	18.1	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.7	13.7	13.4	0	+ 0.3
Retail Trade	101.5	102.1	102.0	- 0.6	- 0.5
General Merchandise	13.3	13.5	13.9	- 0.2	- 0.6
Food Stores	18.7	18.8	18.5	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	35.1	35.0	34.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	34.2	34.2	33.5	0	+ 0.7
Banking	7.3	7.3	7.4	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	134.3	132.8	131.5	+ 1.5	+ 2.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.0	12.8	13.6	+ 0.2	- 0.6
Health Services	36.0	35.6	34.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
GOVERNMENT	84.6	84.9	86.4	- 0.3	- 1.8
Federal	16.0	16.0	15.8	0	+ 0.2
State and Local	68.6	68.9	70.6	- 0.3	- 2.0
State	18.7	18.9	19.6	- 0.2	- 0.9
Local	49.9	50.0	51.0	- 0.1	- 1.1

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**
All MANUFACTURING	$425.82	$433.13	$430.40	40.4	40.9	40.3	$10.54	$10.59	$10.68
Durable Goods	383.91	381.12	384.74	40.2	39.7	39.1	9.55	9.60	9.84
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	271.87	277.56	250.12	31.0	32.2	26.0	8.77	8.62	9.62
Fabricated Metal Products	443.50	409.53	390.66	41.8	41.2	37.6	10.61	9.94	10.39
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	354.22	352.51	381.22	39.8	38.4	38.9	8.90	9.18	9.80
Nondurable Goods	469.34	486.57	472.79	40.6	42.2	41.4	11.56	11.53	11.42
Food & Kindred Products	312.21	300.14	322.79	35.6	37.1	38.2	8.77	8.09	8.45
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	181.61	186.35	200.01	32.9	35.7	35.4	5.52	5.22	5.65
Paper & Allied Products	403.13	452.12	384.56	45.5	45.9	43.9	8.86	9.85	8.76
Printing & Publishing	366.27	368.00	378.10	38.8	40.0	40.7	9.44	9.20	9.29
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	734.23	731.45	701.32	47.4	46.5	44.5	15.49	15.73	15.76

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 29,900 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.2	52.2	54.3	+ 1.0	- 1.1
MANUFACTURING	7.2	7.2	7.3	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.0	5.1	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.4	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.5	2.2	2.8	+ 0.3	- 0.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.6	2.6	2.8	0	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.1	14.0	14.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.8	3.7	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.3	10.3	10.6	0	- 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.3	2.5	2.5	- 0.2	- 0.2
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.4	3.4	3.6	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.5	4.6	4.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Banking	1.0	1.1	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICES	11.4	11.4	11.4	0	0
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Health Services	5.1	5.1	4.9	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	10.6	9.9	10.9	+ 0.7	- 0.3
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.0	9.3	10.3	+ 0.7	- 0.3
State	4.8	4.1	4.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.6
Local	5.2	5.2	6.1	0	- 0.9

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe area rose by 1,000 workers to an estimated 53,200 during mid-February. The primary factor was the return of youths to government payrolls following semester break.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,200, was unchanged over the month.

Construction, which was severely hampered by adverse weather conditions during January, was up by 300 workers in February but was 300 below the last year's estimate. Wholesale and retail trade was up by 100, the gain being in wholesale trade. Services was down by 100; the minimal loss was in banking. Government rose by 700 as a result of the hiring of student workers following the semester break. All other segments were unchanged.

Employment is expected to move upward slowly as unemployment remains high.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in February increased to 509,200, a level 800 above January. Gains were largely in services and durable goods in manufacturing. Over the year, nonagricultural employment gained 3,900 workers, with increases in most industry divisions.

Manufacturing employment totaled 43,200 in February, up 300 from the previous month. Durable goods showed an increase of 500 over the previous month. Ship and boat building and repairing was responsible for the increase because of more business. Nondurable goods was down 200 from the previous month with food and kindred products being most affected by seasonal decreases.

Services showed considerable increases in educational services, and more business in both the hotel and hospital industries. Mining moved up, partly due to increases in oil and gas field services. Less favorably, retail trade and construction made normal downward seasonal adjustments. Increases in water transportation were offset by decreases in other segments of transportation and public utilities. State and local government lost employment with decreases reflected in many segments. Wholesale trade and finance, insurance and real estate showed no overall change from the previous month.

Production workers in the area earned an average of $425.82 per week in February, down $7.31 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were 40.4, down 30 minutes from the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $10.54, down five cents from the previous month. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are down $4.58 in manufacturing.

Estimated unemployment in February decreased to 58,100, a level 900 below January. The decrease in the labor force was mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 9.9 percent of the labor force compared with 10.0 percent in January and 11.4 percent in February of last year. The February rate was lower than the state rate of 12.1 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 10,477.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show a small overall increase. Gains will probably be attributed to normal seasonal increases in mining, construction and transportation and public utilities. Unemployment is expected to show downward movement as employment picks up.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1988*	Jan. 1988**	Feb. 1987**	Net Change From Jan. 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	131.6	131.7	130.1	- 0.1	+ 1.5
MANUFACTURING	17.1	17.0	18.1	+ 0.1	- 1.0
Durable Goods	12.5	12.4	13.0	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Metals and Machinery	7.3	7.3	7.6	0	- 0.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	5.8	5.8	6.2	0	- 0.4
Other Durable Goods	4.8	4.7	4.9	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Good	4.6	4.6	5.1	0	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.7	0	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
MINING	3.1	3.2	3.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	6.6	6.5	6.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.1	8.1	8.5	0	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	32.3	32.7	31.3	- 0.4	+ 1.0
Wholesale Trade	7.9	7.9	7.9	0	0
Retail Trade	24.4	24.8	23.4	- 0.4	+ 1.0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.3	7.4	7.5	- 0.1	- 0.2
SERVICES	32.1	31.8	30.1	+ 0.3	+ 2.0
GOVERNMENT	25.0	25.0	25.2	0	- 0.2
Federal	4.8	4.8	4.5	0	+ 0.3
State and Local	20.2	20.2	20.7	0	- 0.5
State	5.9	5.9	6.1	0	- 0.2
Local	14.3	14.3	14.6	0	- 0.3

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**	Feb. '88*	Jan. '88**	Feb. '87**
All MANUFACTURING	$460.40	$452.28	$505.62	40.6	39.5	42.1	$11.34	$11.45	$12.01
Lumber and Wood Products	216.72	211.39	216.45	30.1	33.5	33.3	7.20	6.31	6.50
Metals and Machinery	475.39	459.95	584.09	43.1	41.7	46.1	11.03	11.03	12.67
Food and Kindred Products	293.18	325.13	351.96	37.3	41.0	42.1	7.86	7.93	8.36
Printing and Publishing	334.78	342.13	319.79	34.8	35.9	32.9	9.62	9.53	9.72
Petroleum and Coal Products	534.11	546.62	537.43	42.9	46.6	45.7	12.45	11.73	11.76

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The Shreveport LMA had an estimated 131,600 employed in nonagricultural wage and salary employment. This total is 100 less than in January and 1,500 more than February 1987. The most significant job gains during the past year occurred in retail trade and services, and these gains exceed job losses in manufacturing.

Total manufacturing employment for this LMA, estimated at 17,100, was unchanged except for increased production in other durable goods, resulting in an employment gain of 100. During the past year, manufacturing employment fell from 18,100 to 17,100. This employment loss was equally divided between durable and nondurable goods.

The nonmanufacturing estimate of 114,500 declined from the January total of 114,700, but shows an employment gain of 2,500 since February 1987. The small employment gains in construction and services during the past month were eliminated by job losses in mining, trade, and finance, insurance and real estate.

The average weekly earnings for the 12,600 production workers in manufacturing were $460.40, up from $452.28 in January but $45.22 less than the year-ago figure. Average weekly hours were 40.6, up from 39.5 in January and down from 42.1 in February 1987. Average hourly earnings of $11.34 were down from $11.45 in January and $12.01 in February 1987.

The Shreveport LMA's civilian labor force of 164,900 includes 145,600 employed and 19,300 unemployed. The February unemployment rate for this LMA was 11.7 percent.

Economic conditions for this area are expected to remain sluggish through most of the second quarter. Nonagricultural employment will likely show only small gains. Improvements are expected in construction activities and in services. Total unemployment in this LMA should slowly move down from the current level.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION GROUP FOR THE WEEK INCLUDING THE 19th OF FEBRUARY, 1988

Industry	LOUISIANA			ALEXANDRIA AREA			BATON ROUGE AREA		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE
Mining (10-14)	2,337	2,000	337	40	37	3	37	30	7
Contractural Construction (15-17)	14,475	10,219	4,256	531	426	105	2,330	1,757	573
Manufacturing (20-29)	5,976	3,162	2,814	143	71	72	302	162	140
Trans., Comm., & Utilties (40-49)	2,426	1,412	1,014	57	39	18	188	106	82
Wholesale Trade (50-51)	1,596	1,118	478	51	35	16	177	130	47
Retail Trade (52-59)	7,330	4,493	2,837	243	171	72	819	438	381
Fin., Ins., & Real Estate (60-67)	1,610	1,259	351	47	37	10	264	188	76
Service & Miscellaneous (70-89 and 01-09)	11,066	5,955	5,111	330	190	140	1,043	566	477
Public Administration (91-97)	1,326	655	671	54	31	23	122	55	67
All Others	206	127	79	2	2	0	50	31	19
Totals	48,348	30,400	17,948	1,498	1,039	459	5,332	3,463	1,869
Occupations									
Professional, Tech., & Managerial	5,357	4,432	925	139	122	17	618	480	138
Clerical and Sales	9,316	6,818	2,498	284	212	72	1,151	789	362
Services Occupations	4,792	1,627	3,165	194	81	113	461	155	306
Agri., Fishery, Forestry & Related Occ.	1,634	459	1,175	33	15	18	64	15	49
Processing Occupations	1,474	757	717	12	5	7	65	35	30
Machine Trades	2,246	1,632	614	74	64	10	234	193	41
Benchwork Occupations	1,156	614	542	52	22	30	60	43	17
Structural Work Occupations	14,322	9,690	4,632	510	398	112	2,124	1,488	636
Miscellaneous Occupations	8,051	4,371	3,680	200	120	80	555	265	290
Totals	48,348	30,400	17,948	1,498	1,039	459	5,332	3,463	1,869

INSURED UNEMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION GROUP FOR THE WEEK INCLUDING THE 19th OF FEBRUARY, 1988

Industry	HOUMA-THIBODAUX AREA			LAFAYETTE AREA			LAKE CHARLES AREA		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE
Mining (10-14)	171	141	30	324	271	53	52	44	8
Contractural Construction (15-17)	331	270	61	438	301	137	818	661	157
Manufacturing (20-29)	601	437	164	230	118	112	168	81	87
Trans., Comm., & Utilities (40-49)	116	104	12	94	64	30	218	116	102
Wholesale Trade (50-51)	94	82	12	111	82	29	52	46	6
Retail Trade (52-59)	311	256	55	395	273	122	345	243	102
Fin., Ins., & Real Estate (60-67)	57	48	9	92	77	15	52	41	11
Service & Miscellaneous (70-89 and 01-09)	354	246	108	478	346	132	338	233	105
Public Administration (91-97)	34	22	12	37	26	11	45	32	13
All Others	33	27	6	7	5	2	5	5	0
Totals	2,102	1,633	469	2,206	1,563	643	2,093	1,502	591
Occupations									
Professional, Tech., & Managerial	245	224	21	342	310	32	228	194	34
Clerical and Sales	332	293	39	564	469	95	374	298	76
Services Occupations	156	87	69	249	101	148	152	76	76
Agri., Fishery, Forestry & Related Occ.	63	31	32	23	12	11	68	12	56
Processing Occupations	319	216	103	79	40	39	41	22	19
Machine Trades	88	81	7	100	74	26	93	80	13
Benchwork Occupations	25	19	6	38	22	16	36	32	4
Structural Work Occupations	488	392	96	422	290	132	717	569	148
Miscellaneous Occupations	386	290	96	389	245	144	384	219	165
Totals	2,102	1,633	469	2,206	1,563	643	2,093	1,502	591

INSURED UNEMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION GROUP FOR THE WEEK INCLUDING THE 19th OF FEBRUARY, 1988

Industry	MONROE AREA			NEW ORLEANS AREA			SHREVEPORT AREA		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NON-WHITE
Mining (10-14)	33	30	3	187	132	55	170	149	21
Contractural Construction (15-17)	724	574	150	2,560	1,600	960	828	514	314
Manufacturing (20-29)	136	85	51	1,142	622	520	583	295	288
Trans., Comm., & Utilities (40-49)	52	38	14	862	404	458	189	120	69
Wholesale Trade (50-51)	26	19	7	466	282	184	196	140	56
Retail Trade (52-59)	330	211	119	2,163	1,157	1,006	813	437	376
Fin., Ins., & Real Estate (60-67)	63	53	10	595	434	161	179	144	35
Service & Miscellaneous (70-89 and 01-09)	303	178	125	3,185	1,669	1,516	1,109	610	499
Public Administration (91-97)	51	26	25	379	138	241	122	58	64
All Others	7	4	3	49	23	26	4	1	3
Totals	1,725	1,218	507	11,588	6,461	5,127	4,193	2,468	1,725
Occupations									
Professional, Tech., & Managerial	228	197	31	1,878	1,465	413	505	441	64
Clerical and Sales	374	283	91	2,894	1,844	1,050	1,008	747	261
Services Occupations	142	43	99	1,550	395	1,155	588	145	443
Agri., Fishery, Forestry & Related Occ.	21	11	10	97	33	64	69	25	44
Processing Occupations	11	4	7	286	115	171	54	18	36
Machine Trades	96	67	29	440	308	132	271	143	128
Benchwork Occupations	20	16	4	176	71	105	170	81	89
Structural Work Occupations	510	407	103	2,574	1,512	1,062	876	539	337
Miscellaneous Occupations	323	190	133	1,693	718	975	652	329	323
Totals	1,725	1,218	507	11,588	6,461	5,127	4,193	2,468	1,725

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